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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/063,374	04/17/2002	Toshiya Ogawa	AT-0018US	4581

23419 7590 07/05/2005

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EXAMINER	
BATURAY, ALICIA	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/063,374	OGAWA, TOSHIYA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alicia Baturay	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 April 2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *17 April 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/063,374.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12 are pending.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Krishnamurthy et al. (U.S. 6,389,464).

5. With respect to claim 1, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device that interconnects communication in a computer network including one or more communication devices, the one or more communication devices including a management apparatus that manages the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59), the interconnecting device comprising:

A first memory unit operable to store communication device identifying information for identifying a communication device performing communication via a connection port of the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53); a second memory unit operable to store management apparatus identifying information for identifying the management apparatus (Krishnamurthy, col. 6, line 65-col.7, line 6); a setting unit operable to perform communication setting for the interconnecting device, the setting being related to the one or more communication devices communicating via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 11, line 25-34); a processing unit operable to determine, in a case where the setting unit performs the setting related to one of the communication devices for communication via the connection port, whether or not the communication device identifying information stored in the first memory unit matches with the management apparatus identifying information stored in the second memory unit (Krishnamurthy, Fig. 3, element 84; col. 9, lines 49-54); and a transmit unit operable to transmit setting information regarding the setting to the management apparatus when the communication device identifying information is determined to match with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-43).

6. With respect to claim 2, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, where the transmit unit transmits SNMP trap as the setting information to the management apparatus when the processing unit determines that the communication device identifying information matched with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 13, lines 22-44). A user could define an alert event that could be triggered when a SetRequest was issued for the SNMP manager, which could generate a Trap message to be sent to the SNMP manager.

7. With respect to claim 5, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, where the setting related to the communication via the connection port includes a communication stop request setting for the communication, the processing unit determines, in a case where the setting unit performs the communication stop setting for the communication via the connection port, whether or not the communication device identifying information stored in the first memory unit matches with the management apparatus identifying information stored in the second memory unit, and the transmit unit transmits communication stop information, indicating the communication via the connection port between the management apparatus and the interconnecting device is to be stopped, as the setting information to the management apparatus in a case where the processing unit determined that the communication device identifying information matches with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-36).

8. With respect to claim 8, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1, where the setting unit performs setting related to a VLAN (Krishnamurthy, Fig. 2; col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 27) associated with the connection port, the processing unit determines, in a case where the setting unit performs the setting related to the VLAN, whether or not the communication device identifying information stored in the first memory unit matches with the management apparatus identifying information stored in the second memory unit, and the transmit unit transmits VLAN information, indicating details of the setting related to the VLAN, as the setting information to the management apparatus in a case where the processing unit determined the communication device identifying information matches with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 49-54).

9. With respect to claim 10, Krishnamurthy teaches a communication setting method for an interconnecting device that interconnects communication in a computer network including one or more communication devices, the one or more communication devices including a management apparatus that manages the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59), the method comprising:

Storing communication device identifying information for identifying a communication device performing communication via a connection port of the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53); storing management apparatus identifying information for identifying the management apparatus (Krishnamurthy, col. 6, line 65-col.7, line 6); receiving a communication setting request related to the one or more communication devices

communicating via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 11, line 25-34); in a case where the communication setting request was received, determining whether or not the communication device identifying information matches with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, Fig. 3, element 84; col. 9, lines 49-54); and transmitting setting information regarding the communication setting request to the management apparatus in a case where the communication device identifying information is determined to match with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-43).

10. With respect to claim 12, Krishnamurthy teaches a program stored in a computer-readable medium for use with an interconnecting device that interconnects communication in a computer network including one or more communication devices, the one or more communication devices including a management apparatus that manages the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59), the program comprising:

A first storing module operable to instruct a first memory unit of the interconnecting device to store communication device identifying information for identifying a communication device performing communication via a connection port of the interconnecting device (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53); a second storing module operable to instruct a second memory unit of the interconnecting device to store management apparatus identifying information for identifying the management apparatus (Krishnamurthy, col. 6, line 65-col.7, line 6); a setting module operable to perform communication setting of the interconnecting device related to the one or more communication devices communicating

via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 11, line 25-34); a determining module operable to determine, in a case where the setting module performs the setting related to one of the communication devices for communication via the connection port, whether or not the communication device identifying information matches with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, Fig. 3, element 84; col. 9, lines 49-54); and a transmitting module operable to cause the interconnecting unit to transmit setting information, regarding the setting by the setting module, to the management apparatus in a case where the communication device identifying information matches with the management apparatus identifying information (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnamurthy as and further in view of Yan et al. (U.S. 6,003,065).

Krishnamurthy teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a server to which a number of devices can be connected and which can be managed remotely over the Internet (Krishnamurthy, see Abstract).

13. With respect to claim 3, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 1 (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59) and where the setting unit registers a communication device for communication via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53).

Krishnamurthy does not explicitly teach the use of approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change.

However, Yan teaches the use of a receive unit operable to receive approval information indicating that a setting change performed by the setting unit is approved by the management apparatus which received the setting information (Yan, col. 17, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krishnamurthy in view of Yan in order to use approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change. One would have been motivated to do so in order to allow devices to be managed more easily and efficiently by generating a final alert of pending changes to the manager of the devices.

14. With respect to claim 4, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 3 (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59), and the use of a setting unit that performs the registration (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53).

Krishnamurthy does not explicitly teach the use of time-sensitive approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change.

However, Yan teaches the use of a receive unit that receives the approval information within a predetermined time period after the transmit unit transmitted the setting information (Yan, col. 17, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krishnamurthy in view of Yan in order to use approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change. One would have been motivated to do so in order to allow devices to be managed more easily and efficiently by generating a final alert of pending changes to the manager of the devices.

15. With respect to claim 6, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 5 (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 48-59), further comprising a receive unit operable to receive approval information indicating that the stop of the communication between the management apparatus and the interconnecting device is approved by the management apparatus which received the communication stop information, where the setting unit performs the stop of the communication via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-36).

Krishnamurthy does not explicitly teach the use of approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change.

However, Yan teaches where the receive unit received the approval information (Yan, col. 17, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krishnamurthy in view of Yan in order to use approval information by

the management apparatus for allowing a setting change. One would have been motivated to do so in order to allow devices to be managed more easily and efficiently by generating a final alert of pending changes to the manager of the devices.

16. With respect to claim 7, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 6, where the transmit unit further transmits information indicating a further connection port for communication by the management apparatus after the stop of the communication via the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 14, lines 31-43).

17. With respect to claim 9, Krishnamurthy teaches an interconnecting device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a receive unit operable to receive information indicating a setting change in accordance with the VLAN (Krishnamurthy, Fig. 2; col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 27) information by the management apparatus which received the VLAN information, where the setting unit performs the setting related to the VLAN associated with the connection port (Krishnamurthy, col. 5, lines 49-54).

Krishnamurthy does not explicitly teach the use of approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change.

However, Yan teaches where the receive unit received the approval information (Yan, col. 17, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krishnamurthy in view of Yan in order to use approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change. One would have been motivated to

do so in order to allow devices to be managed more easily and efficiently by generating a final alert of pending changes to the manager of the devices.

18. With respect to claim 11, Krishnamurthy teaches a communication setting method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising: registering a communication device for communication via the connection port in accordance with the communication setting request (Krishnamurthy, col. 10, lines 48-53).

Krishnamurthy does not explicitly teach the use of approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change.

However, Yan teaches receiving, from the management apparatus, approval information that indicates a setting change in accordance with the communication setting request is approved (Yan, col. 17, lines 45-47).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krishnamurthy in view of Yan in order to use approval information by the management apparatus for allowing a setting change. One would have been motivated to do so in order to allow devices to be managed more easily and efficiently by generating a final alert of pending changes to the manager of the devices.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at 7:30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay
June 30, 2005